



## Beaverton Police Department

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Beaverton, Oregon 97005

Chief Geoff Spalding



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over**

The Beaverton Police Department will be participating in a national traffic safety campaign, with a focus on impaired drivers beginning Wednesday, December 12, 2012 and ending on New Year's Day January 1, 2013.

During this time the Beaverton Police Department will have officers out on focused patrols for impaired drivers. The goal of this campaign is to save lives and educate the motoring public.

In 2011, for the month of December, Oregon had 25 motor vehicle fatalities; 7 of those crashes were alcohol-involved. 2010 saw fewer fatalities, but a higher percentage involved with alcohol: of the 19 who died that December, 7 of the crashes were alcohol-involved. In 2009, of the 39 people who died in December, 10 of the crashes were alcohol-involved. Over the 78-hour Christmas holiday in Oregon last year, two people died in crashes, and both were alcohol-involved.

It is important that you read the labels on any prescription medication you take, before consuming any alcoholic beverage. Drinking alcohol while on some prescription medications can increase your inability to safely operate a motor vehicle and this could lead to serious injury or death.

Here are several things you can do to avoid becoming a statistic:

- Do not drink and drive.
- Do not ride with anyone who has been drinking.
- Do not use illegal drugs.
- Do not drive a motor vehicle until you know how a prescription medication affects you.
- Do not mix prescription medications and alcohol.
- Always use a seat belt.
- Have a designated driver.
- Report drunk drivers by calling 911.

Impaired driving is not an accident; it is an intentional and willing act that you have control over.

##BPD##